

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9 and 22-38 are pending. Claims 2 has been canceled and claims 1 and 3 have been amended.

Claims 1-3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Zhang et al.** in view of **Noumi et al.** Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

In the rejection, the Examiner acknowledges that **Zhang et al.** does not show that the conducting portion's sides are inclined or outwardly protruding. **Noumi et al.** is applied for teaching that the "conducting portion's sides are inclined or outwardly protruding."

The side surfaces of the present invention are inclined and outwardly protrude. As such, even if the references are combined, the combined teachings fail to teach all the features of the claimed invention.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to specify an angle limitation in the range from 20- 60 degrees. If the outwardly protruding side surface is regarded as one which comprises two linear parts in cross-section, the feature added to claim 1 defines the slope of the lower linear part. By combining this feature with the outwardly protruding limitation, the anodically oxidized layer can be well utilized as an intentionally produced insulating layer.

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being over unpatentable over **Zhang et al.** and **Noumi et al.** further in view of **Wolf** and **Tauber**. **Wolf** and **Tauber** fail to

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provide the teachings which **Zhang et al.** and **Noumi et al.** lack.

Claims 31-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Zhang et al.** in view of **Noumi et al.** Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

In regard to claim 31, the Examiner's attention is directed to Fig. 27E of the present application as compared with Fig. 4(B) of **Zhang et al.** Claim 31 includes the step of forming the insulating film (88) into a predetermined shape using the gate electrode (92) including the anodically oxidized film (92) as a mask, as shown in Fig. 27E. However, in Fig. 4(B) of **Zhang et al.**, the insulating film 22 (see element 22 in Fig. 4(A)) is not formed, although the gate electrode (23a) including the anodically oxidized film (23b) is shown. As a result, the offset (98) recited in the last paragraph of claim 31 is not carried out in **Zhang et al.**

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.


Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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